

# Use of NASA Fiber Optic Probe in Studying Effects of Diabetes in the Eye (NASA-FDA Interagency Agreement)

## Significance:

- Approximately 16 million Americans are diabetic.
- One third of hospitalized patients are diabetic.
- 30% of patients requiring kidney transplants have diabetic nephropathy.
- Diabetic retinopathy is the fourth leading cause of all legal blindness.
- Gangrene of the lower extremities is 100 times more common in diabetics.
- The incidence of hearing impairment is 4 times more common in diabetics.
- Unique genetic models are needed to study complex multi-factor disorders.

